

PLAIN TALK

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AT SCHOOL AND HOME

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VOL. X.—No. 67.

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1891.

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January, 1891.

PLAIN TALK.

VOL. X.

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1891.

No. 67.

ONE CENT.

A NUMISMATIC STORY.

JOSEPH R. HAWLEY JONES was in a tight place and it would require the most careful financing to extricate him therefrom. Now all you people who read this do not for one moment allow yourself to judge the size of this gentleman by the length of his name. He was a diminutive little chap, five years of age, and the name had been given to him by his father as a token of the regard he bore for his brigade commander in the old Tenth Army Corps. In fact, the whole name was not used in every-day service but had been shortened by his father to "General" or "General Joe," which latter seemed to please the old soldier best.

Now perhaps the best way to explain just how General Joe was situated at the time of his financial embarrassment is to tell the whole truth in an open, straightforward sort of way and conceal nothing. Now, therefore be it known that Joe's father had been one of the best soldiers who ever carried a musket, and had done valiant service as all his officers and comrades could testify. He was a skillful workman at his trade and always sober and industrious, but like many other good soldiers he never could look after money matters so as to get anything ahead for the inevitable and ever imminent "rainy day." After the war he had come back to New York to work at his trade, and with the exception of being obliged to lay off a few days or weeks now and then with a troublesome old wound received in the Fort Fisher campaign, he was always at his bench and as long as he lived his family were well cared for, enjoying not only the necessities but also many of the luxuries of life.

But the "rainy day" came at last sure enough and it found the bank account barely sufficient to meet the contingent expenses.

In the summer of 1880 little General Joe's mother sickened and died in less than a week, leaving her distracted husband, a daughter seventeen years old and Joe just entering upon his fifth year, to mourn her sudden departure from the happy little home, hitherto unbroken. Then the troublesome old wound broke out afresh and this, added to the new wound in his heart, laid the valiant soldier low, and in the early autumn the two children were doubly orphaned.

Quickly told is it not, and yet what a tragedy may be told in a very few words!

Sergeant Jones, having earned a decent subsistence for himself and family, had never asked his country for the pension to which he was justly entitled. He may have been

negligent about the matter or he may not have wished to put a money value on his patriotism; let it suffice that he never had been a pensioner and it was a matter the children knew nothing about. They might also have asked and received willing aid from the Grand Army Post of which their father had been an honored member, but, like her father, Alice had an instinctive horror of anything which, in the slightest degree, resembled dependence. You will see that my story is about a plucky little family, (the Sergeant had been the first to plant the Stars and Stripes on the parapet of Fort Fisher in January, 1865, with a heavy Armstrong gun tossing balls at him,) and the daughter was never going to throw discredit on her father's brilliant record, so after a few weeks had transpired, instead of giving way to the grief which hung so heavily upon her, she seriously studied out the situation in which she and little General Joe were left, matured plans

in accordance therewith and the next day started out on the busy street to put them into execution.

Before nightfall she had secured a position in a large bookstore at a fair salary for a beginner. Then she found a kind friend who was not anxious to take advantage of her necessities, and she received a handsome price for that part of her furniture which she could dispense with. The balance she moved into smaller quarters where less rent would be demanded, and which would still be large enough to accommodate herself and brother. An arrangement was also made by which her landlady agreed to keep an

eye on General Joe during her absence.

After all was arranged to her satisfaction, Alice took her place behind the counter and by being courteous and obliging, added to a certain grace of manner peculiar to herself, she gradually came to be much sought after by customers and rapidly worked her way upward. After the first six months her salary was increased and the General and herself added many little comforts to their humble home.

Alas, that I should be obliged to tell it, but the good and the bad are so strangely intermingled, and one comes so closely upon the heels of the other that in the midst of our greatest joy comes the poison of expected evil. Just when everything was so bright with promise for the future, Alice was taken sick and had to abandon her post to another. It was caused by over exertion during the busy season, the doctor said. Well, however it came about it was bad enough and threatened shipwreck and disaster to the young orphans.

For a time the money which Alice had managed to save,



sufficed for immediate wants, but the "wolf at the door" grew more clamorous as the amount melted day by day, until at last she opened the pocket book and found it empty. Then she called General Joe to her chair and tried to make him comprehend the condition in which they were placed.

"If we could only have a little money now Joe, to buy food and medicine for a few days longer I think I should be strong enough to go back to my work. The rent is paid for a month yet, and the landlady says there is quite a bit of coal. I am sure she has been very kind and helpful to us Joe, and we must never forget it."

"I say, Alice, I've got money yet in the old tin bank."

"I guess not much Joe."

"Wait a minute; I'll go and get it."

So off he ran and presently returned with a somewhat dilapidated specimen of a tin bank which he handed to his sister.

She opened a little door with a spring and out dropped an old copper cent of a greenish black color. Weak as she was Alice could not help laughing.

"There Joe, you will have to find more money than that I am afraid. Well my darling little brother there is one at least who has promised to care for the orphan so we must look only on the bright side. I suppose the soldiers, papa's old comrades, would help us if they only knew, but it does seem so hard to beg."

Here the General turned away to think matters over and this brings us back to the commencement of the story.

It appeared that "more money" was needed; the money he had found in the tin bank was not sufficient to buy bread, meat, vegetables, and the much needed medicines which were to make his sister well. "More money" was what Alice said and how to get it was the question that vexed little Joe as it had many a larger man before him.

So he cogitated and ran his fingers through his curly hair and looked wise until at last he remembered his little toy soldier, which, by touching a spring would "Carry arms," and "Present arms," alternately. One of his acquaintances belonging to that class commonly, but we think very unjustly called "street gamin," by the poetic name of Billy Skeedoo, had made the General many tempting offers for this toy, such as pocket knives with broken blades, marbles, pieces of kite string, chewing gum and all that sort of thing which is so apt to be the line of personal property first accumulated by an embryo American citizen.

"Now," thought General Joe aloud, "if Billy only had some money and would trade with me, I would let him have it this time. Then I could buy everything Alice needed until she got well and we wouldn't have to beg and I'll be a man pretty soon anyhow. Hi, there Billy! Hi, Yi!"

This last exclamation was called forth as an urchin of about the same size as himself went by on the run. The boy addressed stopped short and Joe soon joined him on the other side of the street.

What transpired at this interview has never been definitely ascertained and we will let suffice for all purposes connected with this story that at its conclusion, Billy was the owner of the toy soldier and General Joe's money had been reinforced by two small pennies.

This was "more money" and Alice had said that more money was just what was needed. All right then, he would take the market basket and slip out without letting his sister know, start out on the street and see what money would do. Now it may be as well to say right here that General Joe had very indistinct and uncertain ideas in regard to the value and purchasing power of money and imagined that the old black copper cent with its two smaller allies were sufficient to buy out half the town at least.

Trudging along with the proud and confident air of a bloated bond holder he at last came to the door of a bakery and without a moment's hesitation marched boldly in and up to the counter where a score were already waiting to be served.

At last a man wearing a white paper cap, white apron, white sleeves and a ferocious red mustache, came forward and said,

"What can I do for you my little man?"

"If you please sir I should like some bread, meat, cake, pie and medicine."

"Well my boy we can give you the bread, cake pie, but the meat you will have to get at the butcher's and the

medicine at the drug store. How much and what kind of bread, cake and pie would you like."

How did the General know and what would he say to the man now? He supposed that all he would be obliged to call for would be something to eat and medicine to make Alice well; however, it would not do to show the white feather now so he tried to say boldly, but a lump came into his throat as he did so.

"Fill the basket if you please with what you think is best of each kind."

Away went the man and in a minute returned with the basket filled and a nice white paper cover over the top.

During this time General Joe's hand had not relaxed its grip upon the precious "more money," which was to be the magic word with which all difficulties were to be surmounted, and now he stepped up and handed them to the man.

"Why, boy, this is not enough. There are only three cents and this black one is no good. I have just sixty cents worth in your basket."

Then he pushed the pennies back to Joe and reached for his goods.

This was an entirely unlooked for dilemma and as Joe's chin dropped and his lips began to quiver, he knew not what next to do as he gazed mournfully upon the big black cent lying in his hand between the two smaller ones. He wished himself outside but if his life had been pending he would not have ran away. He would face it out, let come what might.

A fine looking old gentleman looking through a pair of glasses, standing near, apparently an amused spectator of the little scene now came up to the counter and extending his hand said.

"My brave little man, you seem to be in trouble, will you allow me to look at that large cent? I am a searcher after old coins and your penny may be worth the contents of the basket after all."

This would give him a minute to breathe in so Joe handed it over to the kindly appearing stranger.

The old gentleman glanced at the date, then his countenance and whole appearance changed. He took off his spectacles and from his pocket brought out a queer looking sort of an instrument which he put over the cent and carefully looked through. Then he turned the cent over and examined it on the other side. After he had examined the old copper to his apparent satisfaction he turned to the baker, paid the price of the contents of the basket, put the cent carefully into his wallet, and the wallet with much ceremony into his pocket, then turning to the General he said,

"Now my little fellow show me where you live."

The sky commenced to brighten for little Joe as he stepped once more into the open street. The fine old gentleman commenced to chat with him and before many minutes they were great comrades, and when the door was reached, Joe's new friend had become possessed of not a few points connected with the young hero's history.

Alice may have been a trifle shocked at the abrupt entrance of her brother, with his newly found associate in the unceremonious way usually adopted by young men of that age, but her lady like demeanor and the gentleman's ready tact soon put them all upon an easy familiar footing and in less than an hour they seemed to be like old acquaintances.

Then by degrees it became revealed that the gentleman had a taste for numismatics and for years had been making a collection of rare coins, and further that for about a year he had been advertising and offering a large price for an American cent of the year—if in a good state of preservation, that this old black cent which the General had found in his bank was the identical coin he had looked so long and anxiously.

Not much more remains to be told. The price paid for the old black cent reinforced by a loan from their new-found friend was enough to establish Alice in a neat, tidy little stationery store, (the unexpected good luck helped her to get well more than medicine) and Joe was installed as assistant, general utility man, errand boy, etc. The old gentleman still continues to be their banker, lawyer and best adviser.

GEORGE H. WORDEN, Prospect, N.Y.

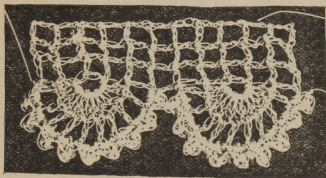
LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

EDITED BY
MRS. N. F. PERKINS, 635 PARK AVE., N. Y.

Fancy Work.
NARROW SCALLOP LACE.

CHAIN thirteen stitches. First row, one double crochet in seventh stitch, two chain, one double crochet in tenth stitch, two chain, one double crochet in last stitch.

Second row, ch. five, one d. c. over d. c. of last row, ch. two, one d. c. over d. c., ch. two one d. c. in third stitch of ch. Third row, same as second row, then five ch., fasten with slip stitch at end of second row, three ch., fasten with slip stitch at end of first row. Fourth row, ten d. c. over five ch., two

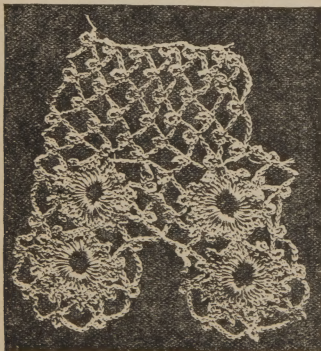


ch., one d. c. three times. Fifth row, same as second row; two ch., one d. c. in each d. c. of last row, making nine holes in scallop; fasten with slip stitch at beginning. Sixth row, (ones c., two d. c., one s. c., over each two ch. of last row, making nine small points or scallops same as second row. Each scallop is made same as first one, and the first small point of second scallop is joined to last small point of first scallop by slip stitch.

EMMA L. HAUCK.

HANDSOME WHEEL LACE.

MAKE a chain of twenty-one stitches. First row, s. c. in seventh stitch, ch. four, s. c. in same stitch, ch. seven, s. c. in fourteenth stitch, ch. four, s. c. in same, ch. seven, s. c. in twenty-first stitch, ch. four, s. c. in same, ch. seven, turn. Second row, s. c. in centre of seven ch. of last row, ch. four, s. c. in same stitch, ch. seven, s. c. in center of next seven ch., ch. four, s. c. in same stitch, seven ch., turn. Third row, s. c. in center of first seven ch., ch. four, s. c. in



same stitch, ch. seven, s. c. in next seven ch., ch. four, s. c. in same stitch, ch. seven, s. c. in center of last ch. seven, ch. four, s. c. in same, ch. fourteen, turn sl. stitch in fourth, ch. three, sl. stitch in same stitch where last picot was fastened, turn, three d. c. in loop, ch. four, s. c. in top of last d. c. (picot), four d. c. in loop, picot, four d. c., ch. fourteen, fasten with sl. stitch in fourth of ch., three ch., sl. stitch in top of last d. c., turn, three d. c. in loop picot, four d. c. picot, four

d. c. picot, four d. c. picot, four d. c. picot, four d. c., fasten in top of three ch., this finishes one wheel; four d. c. in next half of loop (one-half of which was filled going down opposite side) picot, four d. c. picot, four d. c. picot, four d. c., fasten in top of three ch., ch. seven, s. c. in first seven ch., ch. four or picot, seven ch., s. c. in next seven ch. picot, seven ch., s. c. in last seven ch., ch. seven, turn. Fourth row, s. c. in first ch. seven, picot, seven ch., picot, seven ch., picot, seven ch., sl. stitch between first two picots of wheel picot, seven ch. picot between second and third picots, seven ch., and repeat around the scallop and fasten in foundation chain, turn, and repeat around just the same as the upper part of lace or insertion part; when making the second scallop fasten together by sl. stitch as seen in illustration, this may be made as wide or narrow as you want, and a child's collar made after this pattern is beautiful.

JENNIE SOUTHWORTH.

PHOTOGRAPH CASE.

TAKE two pieces of card-board seven and one-half inches wide and nine inches long. Paint a spray of any favorite flowers on a piece of cream satin six inches long and



four inches wide; enlarge to size of card-board with black velvet, using two shades of silk around edge of painted piece and across corners. For back of case, take a piece of bristol board size of card-board; cross stitch "Our Friends" in center. Line front and back with red satin, sew back together, finish edges with tinsel, a ribbon bow at each end, ribbon to tie on each side ten inches long.

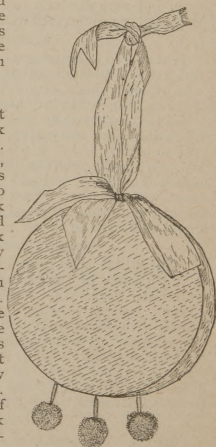
HANGING PINCUSHION.

CUT an old felt hat into strips an inch wide, and roll tightly until it measures four and a half inches across. Cover with two pieces of yellow plush, sew tightly a band of inch-wide ribbon around the edge, making a bow where joined and a loop six inches long for hanging. Sew three plush balls of same color on the bottom.

CROCHETED BABY'S BOOT.

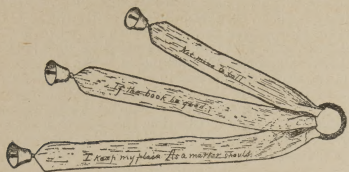
MAKE a chain of eight stitches, turn and work into the first from the hook. Double crochet into every loop, and in the middle stitch always increase by working three into one. Crochet into the back part of the loop in the second row, so as to make the work run in even ridges. Every row is the same, always increasing in the middle stitch by working three into one. When ten ridges are done make the side by working the first eleven stitches backwards and forwards for twenty-eight rows on fourteen ridges. Now fasten this on to the front part.

SOLE.—Make a chain of twenty-two stitches and work in tricôt. Increase at the beginning and end of every row for six rows; three rows without increase, then decrease six rows. Sew the sole to the boot. Take up forty stitches in white for the leg, first doubling back the three cornered flap and tacking it down. Do three rounds in double crochet. Fourth round, d. c. two ch., miss one loop, work into the next loop. Repeat from star, nine more rounds in d. c. Work a scallop for the edge thus: One single, one treble, one chain, one treble into next loop, not missing any loop. Repeat. Now run in ribbon, fasten a bow on lappet.



BOOK MARKER.

A PIECE of red satin ribbon twelve and a half inches long and one inch wide, write on it "Not mine to tell." Take another piece fourteen and a half inches long and the same width of green; write on it "If the book be good."



Then another piece sixteen and a half inches long and the same width of pink; write on it, "I keep my place as a marker should." Finish each end with a tiny bell to match the ribbon. Crochet around a ring with brown knitting silk, and attach the ribbons to the ring.

Our Cook Book.

WILL not each reader of PLAIN TALK send in her best recipe?

SIMPLE GINGER CAKE.

Put one teaspoonful of soda into a tumbler with five teaspoonful of cold water, fill up with molasses and beat it till it foams. Put into your stirring dish with one tablespoonful of butter, one cup of flour, one tablespoonful of ginger.

J. E. S.

HARRISON COOKIES.

One cup each of butter and lard, four cups of sugar, one-half cup of sour milk, four eggs. Two teaspoonful of cream tartar, one teaspoonful of soda. Flour to mix a soft dough.

COFFEE JELLY.

Add one pint of water to coffee grounds left from breakfast, add two tablespoonful of gelatine. When dissolved, strain and set away in a cool place to thicken. Serve with sweetened cream flavored with vanilla.

RUSSIAN CREAM.

JELLY.—To one package of Cox's gelatine add one pint of cold water. When dissolved add one pint of hot water, two cups of sugar, juice of six lemons. Stir slowly until well dissolved then strain into moulds.

CREAM.—Cover one package of gelatine with cold water. When dissolved, add one cup of new milk, one cup of sugar; take to boiling point stirring frequently; then set away to cool. Whip one quart of thick cream until light; beat the whites of six eggs, and add both to the mixture; when cool flavor with vanilla. Place the jelly in the bottom of the moulds, and when stiff and cold add the cream, turn out of mould and serve in slices.

POTTED CHICKEN AND HAM.

Take all the meat from a roasted four pound chicken, add to it a quarter of a pound of lean uncooked ham, and chop both until very, very fine, then pound it with a potato masher, adding gradually six ounces of melted butter. Season with salt, pepper, a little nutmeg and cayenne. Fill this mixture into small earthen pots (old teacups will answer), tie the tops with muslin, stand them in a pan of boiling water and bake thirty minutes; then remove the muslin, cover the tops with a layer of melted butter, tie over with two thicknesses of tissue paper and keep in a cool, dry place.

APRICOT CREAM.

Take a jar of preserved apricots, Turn out the contents into a saucepan, add two ounces of sugar, let them boil for a quarter of an hour, pass them through a coarse strainer. Dissolve one ounce of gelatine in a little cold milk, whip to a froth a pint of cream, mix the gelatine with the apricot pulp, then quickly work into it the cream. Pour the mixture into a mould, and put it on the ice to set.

OYSTER PIE.

One quart of oysters, including the liquor; one cup of milk or one-half cup of sweet cream, one tablespoonful of

butter, a little salt and pepper. Put in a deep pan and cover with a crust made of one quart of flour, one large spoonful of lard, one teaspoonful of baking powder, pinch of salt, water or milk to make a batter to roll. Bake twenty minutes in a hot oven.

SCALLOPED OYSTERS.

Roll fine one quart of crackers, grease a pan as for cake, put in a layer of cracker crumbs, pour off the liquor from the oysters and add to it fresh milk twice or three times its quantity; moisten the crumbs with this and put over them a layer of oysters, season with salt and pepper and bits of butter. Alternate the layers of crackers and oysters with their respective seasoning; let the top layer be of crumbs and bits of butter over it. Beat up an egg; add to it a half pint of milk, or if any liquid remains use that. Pour this over all. Bake from one-half to three-quarters of an hour; cook with a lid over it the first half hour, then uncover and brown.

CHICKEN PIE.

Boil one-half of chicken cut in pieces until tender. Take out and place in dish, season with pepper and salt and a sprinkle of flour over the top; add a little gravy.

CRUST.—One pint of flour, small piece of lard, two teaspoonful of baking powder, a little salt. Mix with water as for biscuit. Roll about an inch thick, and put over the top.

STUFFED POTATOES.

Bake four good sized potatoes, when done cut off the ends and remove the inside. Season with butter, salt, pepper and a little chopped onion. Return the same to the shell and replace in the oven to warm. Serve in napkins.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The readers of PLAIN TALK are invited to write letters, ask questions of general interest on fancy work or housekeeping. Send directions of name and place.

DEAR READERS: I would like to say in reply to "Aunt Ruth" in January PLAIN TALK, that happiness is not what we are living for. The woman who has a pleasant home, and can with a clear conscience, stay in it and find both duty and happiness in her housework and caring for the children is highly favored. Other women are often forced to take up the battle of life and earn the money, not only for themselves, but others to live upon. It is hard to taunt these women with having "high aspirations" and "missions"—and harder still for the shielded and protected woman, in her secluded home, to lay one straw in the way of those who are trying to make it easier for the women who must earn their own living to do so. There is great danger that the stay-at-homes may become narrow and selfish. The facts in the case do not show that the women with "missions" and "high aspirations" undervalue home life.

JULIA A. SABINE.

DEAR EDITOR: A sample copy of PLAIN TALK has just reached me. It is the first copy I have ever seen and I like it very much. I like the "Correspondence" and "Ladies' Department," best; and with our kind editor's permission, hope to have many pleasant chats with you. We always enjoy reading the pleasant letters from correspondents, and know we can make that department very interesting. Nora Normal: I wish you could have seen "August Flower's" cabinet. I was a guest at her house for a week the past summer and enjoyed looking at her specimens very much. I had heard of her collections of "Geological Specimens" before as she "exchanged" for almost all of them and was several years in collecting. Imagine, if you can, a pleasant room with tall cases reaching from ceiling to floor on three sides with several smaller cases on the fourth side, and a bevy of stuffed birds under a glass, on the table in the center of the room and you have an idea of my friend's cabinet; But oh! what those cases contain my pen could never tell; more than one thousand labeled specimens of shells, minerals, Indian relics, etc., are therein. Specimens from every state in the union, and many from foreign countries. I enjoyed looking at the collection very much and only wish all the readers of PLAIN TALK could see the cabinet and specimens of minerals etc., which it contains. Aunt Ruth, here is my hand; I too enjoy doing outline work.

TISLET TEMPLE.

THE
American Archaeological Association.

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Sign Language of the American Indians.

[Concluded from last issue]



left shoulder obliquely downward in front of the body to the right hip. The Panis—our old friends the Pawnees—hold up the two fingers of both hands to imitate the ears of a wolf. The Sacs pass the extended palm of the right hand over the right side of the head from front to back, and the left hand in the same way over the left side, so as to show they are "shaven-headed Indians." The Sahaptin, or Nez Percés, pass the right index-finger to the left by and under the nose, the same sign, or almost the same sign, being used by the Shawnees. The Shoshones, or Snakes, close the right hand in front of the right hip, then extend the index finger and push it diagonally towards the left front, rotating it quickly from side to side in doing so, so as to represent the gliding motion of a snake. The Sheepeters half close both hands, pass them from the top of the ears, backwards and downwards and forwards in a curve to represent a ram's horns, and then with the index only extended and curved, place the hand in front of the mouth and pass it downward and backward several times. The Utes hold the left hand out horizontally, with the palm downwards, and brush it towards the wrist with the fingers of the right hand.

But it is with the conversational signs that most interest lies. Over and over again furs have been sold, leases granted and treaties made in the Far West without a word being spoken between the parties. The Indian interpreters employed by the United States Government are all proficient in this wonderful universal language; and, though it varies in different districts, yet its meaning is always unmistakable. Some of the gestures used are strangely eloquent.

Take bad, for instance. The general sign for this is to scatter the right-hand fingers outward, as if spurring away water from them. But among the Arapahoés the fingers of the right hand are half closed, the thumb is hooked over the fore and middle fingers, the hand is moved back upwards a foot or so towards the object referred to, and then the fingers are scattered, so as to show that the object is only worth throwing away.

A bear is represented among the Cheyennes by clapping down the middle and third fingers of the right hand with the thumb and extending the forefinger and little finger and crooking them.

Brave is shown among the Shoshones by clenching the right fist, and placing it on the breast. But among the Sioux the two fists are pushed forward about a foot at the height of the breast, with the palms inward, the right being about two inches behind the left, among the Comanches and Kaioways the sign is that given in the illustration.

Chief is shown by some sign clearly meaning rising above others. Either the finger is pointed over the head or the hair is raised, or else the hands are so placed as to show one in advance to all others.

Death is showing by throwing the forefinger from the perpendicular into a horizontal position towards the earth, with the back downward, or else by crossing the arms on the chest and then letting them drop at the same time on the head. The Bannack sign is that we give, which is also in use among the Shoshones. For dying we give the sign common to the Apaches, Comanches and Kaioways. For "nearly dying, but recovered," the Kaioways have a most significant gesture. The hand is moved slowly downwards, and then upwards again.

Good is shown among the Mandans by placing the right hand horizontally in front of the breast and moving it forward. Among the Cheyennes the right-hand fingers, pointing to the left, are placed on a level with the mouth, the thumb being inward. Among the Arapahoés the chest is struck two or three times over the heart with the radical sign of the right hand, the fingers being partly flexed and pointing downwards. An even more eloquent sign is in use among Ojibwas, Sioux, Kaioways, Apaches and Comanches. The flat right hand is placed palm downwards with the thumb touching the breast, and is then moved forward and slightly upward and to the right. This is a far higher notion of what is good than the mere smacking of the lips of the deaf mutes.

Grow has another eloquent sign, the hand being held as in the illustration, and moved upwards in an interrupted manner. Much the same sort of sign is used for smoke, but in that the same hand is thrown upwards several times from the same place instead of continuing the whole motion upward.

THE Kaioways place the right hand a short distance above the right side of the head, with the fingers and thumb separated and extended, and shake it rapidly from side to side giving it a slight rotary motion, which is supposed to allude to the fact that they are inclined to be rattle-brained. The Kickapoos work their thumb and fingers as if clipping the hair over their ear, and then makes a sign that the borders of their leggings are wide. The Mandans extend the first and second fingers of the right hand, and with the backs outward and the other fingers closed, draw a line from the

Horse has a multitude of signs, the commonest being the stretching out of the right hand edgewise, with the thumb recumbent on the top, so as to signify the rider at full speed. Sometimes the thumb is clasped under, and two fingers are placed astride the imaginary steed. Sometimes the middle fingers are extended against the thumb, so as to form a head and the two outer fingers are stuck out to represent the ears, a sign which is also used for a mule. An untamed horse is shown among the Utes by riding one hand with the two fingers of the other, and jumping and bucking it so as to try and throw the straddling fingers off.

House is shown among the Sioux by crossing the extended fingers of the two hands at right angles in such a way as to represent the logs at the end of a hut. For a lodge or wigwam the two hands are generally raised together in the form of the roof of a house, the ends of the fingers upwards. This, with the palms close together, is the old sign for prayer, which even now lingers amongst us and is still taught to our children. Among the Kaioways and Comanches the fingers are slightly separated and crossed, so as to show the crossing of the tentpoles above the covering.

For None, Nothing or I Have None, a very expressive sign is used among the Sioux. The palm of the flat right hand is passed over the left from the wrist toward and off the tips of the fingers. With a little modification this sign is used among the Kaioways, Comanches and Apaches.

For Friend, we give the Dakota sign. It is worthy of note that an Indian rarely shakes hands with Indians: that is a ceremony he reserves for his pale-face friend.

For Killed, the Cheyenne sign is given.

Rain is denoted by the Shoshones and Apaches by apparently dripping fingers.

We give the ordinary Sun and the Cheyenne Sun. Both mean the same, the completeness of the disc being shown in each case.

Tree is given according to the Dakotas, the right hand being held before the body, as shown, and pushed slightly upward to give the idea of growth.

Untrue. The Arikara emblem of a falsehood is significant, the first and second fingers being moved to the direction of the dotted line.

The American Indians are the most stolid of races. We here of them times and again sitting for hours without moving a muscle, and yet amongst them the language of pantomime flourishes at its fullest. It is much the same with them as it is with the Italians. As a nation of gesticulators we should class the Italians far below the French, but owing to their peculiar divisions it has been found indispensable to have one general language, and to keep it at a fair average of cultivation. A most striking example of the perfection to which sign language can be brought forced itself into history in 1282. In that year the Sicilian Vespers rebellion was arranged throughout the Island, and even the day and hour fixed, without a word being spoken or written. Every detail of the conspiracy was commanded by gesture.

Librarian's Report.

THE library received quite an addition the past month.

Three copies of *Illustrated American* from W. K. Moorehead, with finely written account of the late Sioux trouble. Mr. Moorehead spent four weeks on the reservation as correspondent of several papers, and his account of the matter is very interesting. Prof. W. H. Lewis, of St. Paul, sends pamphlet describing some of his field work during the past season. Secretary Farnham sends a large bundle of clippings for scrap-book. C. W. Eaton, Esq., of Wakefield *Citizen and Banner*, a copy of the *Great Divide*, which contains a very fine article, with many illustrations on the Cliff Dwellers. I think all of the members should see the article. In one of the cliff dwellings some vessels of clay were found that were made of ropes of clay, starting from a center and built up till the sides were made. Here in Eastern Massachusetts, in a small rock-shelter were found fragments of a similar vessel made in the same way. C. A. PERKINS, Librarian.

To Archaeologists and Collectors of Mound and Indian Relics.

PLEASE send us your name and address, plainly written, on a postal card, for publication in a directory. Address, A. C. GRUHLKE, Waterloo, Ind.

Secretary's Report.

I HAVE the pleasure of submitting the names of three applicants for membership in the A. A. A.

Mr. V. B. Allee, Paola, Kans. References, A. Reichard, M.D., E. H. Jackson.

Mr. Phillip A. Gannon, Plantsville, Ct. References, W. S. Ward, Plantsville, Ct., A. B. Farnham, Benning, D. C.
Mr. John DeWolfe, 272 East Market St., Corning, N. Y. Reference, W. E. Gorton, Mayor of City of Corning, N. Y.

As the application of Mr. DeWolfe was received from Mr. Wm. T. Miller, of Parkersburg, W. Va., I suppose he may be considered as a reference for the applicant.

I hope this is but the beginning of a movement which will join the hands of the majority of American Archaeologists, old and young. I hope the members will pardon any hitches in the routine of association business which may be caused by the inexperience of the present Secretary, and they should bear in mind that all the officers of the Association are perhaps sometimes hindered by affairs of private business.

As the Treasurer has not reported his receipts recently, I do not know, but hope that the accounts of all the members are settled. A. B. FARNHAM, Secretary.

Archæological Chatter.

THE writer once told his readers in "Archæological Chatter," that grooved axes were only found in North America. This to a certain extent is not a true statement. He should have said that in two cases these implements were found in Europe. In Sweden were brought to light two axes which are grooved. They are figured in "The Primitive Inhabitants of Scandinavia," by Sven Nielson, on plate VIII. Prof. Nielson calls the finely chipped and often polished flint celts found in Sweden and Norway axes. They do not, however, in general have the same form as our celts, being square on the sides. In rare cases one having this shape is picked up here.

He writes of them on page 68. "To this division—and here he includes the above axes—belong probably the edge-tools round which runs a transverse furrow, unless, indeed, they have not rather been wedges with which to split wood." It is curious to note that they were made from hornblende and diorite. Our grooved axes are mostly all made from the same material. Prof. Nielson's theory that the grooved specimens were used in splitting wood brings to my mind the argument of Prof. Perkins, of the University of Vermont who quotes from Champlain, the explorer, who in his account of a journey which he took with a party of Algonkins in 1609, speaks several times of the stone axes as used to fell trees, and that they did it with somewhat of expedition.

Prof. Perkins is an able authority on stone relics, and his testimony is so reliable that one is compelled to take for granted his statement.

Writing of European stone relics causes me to mention, belonging to my collection, a minute diorite celt fastened in a deer-horn handle, found in one of the lakes in Switzerland. Its handle is very small. This is the case with all found. Indeed, it has produced the inference that the people who made them were a race with very small hands. The handles of many of the bronze swords and daggers found in Europe are so small that it is difficult to grasp them.

Similarity in form of many arrow-points brought together from great distances, is an interesting part in the gathering and study of them. Many collectors entertain the idea that a single form, and no other was made by one tribe of Indians. This is not the case, as can be attested by the fact that I own arrow-heads or perhaps knives—for it is hard to say for what purpose they were used, of the leaf-shaped pattern which were brought together from Ireland, Oregon, Missouri, Mississippi and Eastern Pennsylvania. This, too, can be said of the celt or ungrooved axe. Many specimens alike in pattern have been brought together from nearly all parts of the world.

Indian implements beside their archæological value often have attached to them historical interest, because found on ground where occur events of such importance as to be noted in history.

This is the case with two large spear heads in my possession. The first, a fine specimen, barbed, and made of yellow

jasper was found on the spot where was committed the terrible massacre of Wyoming, in the Susquehanna valley, near where the city of Wilkesbarre now stands.

The other, a long narrow implement with a plain stone, was taken from the battlefield of Saratoga, New York. It is made from a dull grey jasper, and is six and one quarter inches long. As the British General, Burgoyne had, as his allies, bands of the Iroquois Indians in that battle it perhaps did service there.

A. F. B.

Where are the Ohio Frauds?

ALTHOUGH I am not a member of the Archaeological Association the editor of these columns has been very courteous in permitting me to occasionally express my views upon matters of general interest to antiquaries. So it is with feelings of assurance that the following remarks will be received in the good faith in which I write them then I enter upon the discussion of a matter which at first glance may seem to readers of PLAIN TALK to be no business of mine.

Private correspondence (for I am honored with hundreds of letters from fellow co-laborers in the field) advises me that there is being some considerable "hue-and-cry" raised about fraudulent hematite celts and ornaments in the Ohio valley. In fact, one person for whom I have the highest respect and regard and whose word I know cannot be gainsaid, an officer in the A. A. A. has written me upon this very matter. As he is laboring to prevent the perpetration of fraud, I am willing to aid him in any rightly directed movement.

In ten years' residence in Ohio, during which time I traveled on foot and in buggies all over the State visiting every collection of note, climbing every mound, searching all the prominent village sites, I never saw or directly heard of a fraudulent hematite! This is the *strongest testimony* that I can give. Frequently I heard of some collector, who had a friend off in some remote town, who knew another party who had frauds in his collection, but a searching investigation always failed to find frauds either in the possession of an amateur or a dealer. As a resident of Ohio, having a firm friendship with more than one thousand collectors I have never directly heard of frauds in hematite being made, and it is absolutely certain that were such implements manufactured by whites some of my friends would notify me.

Never have I heard a word spoken against the Archaeological virtue of Ohio except by those living at a great distance, and never was there a direct charge that any relics were manufactured, brought or substantiated either in court or by proper affidavits against a living soul in the whole Ohio valley. (Ten years ago the Grave Creek stone, the Cinti, and Wilmington tablets were proven fraudulent, but they were not hematite, nor were they engraved for sale. The makers of them are now dead).

It is cruel, unjust and ungentlemanly to *hint* at fraud. If you cannot come out like men and say "he or she is a rascal and I can prove it," why do not charge a whole community with rascality? It has been said that Cincinnati (whatever such a broad term may imply) is the home of fraud. What fraud lives there? I have yet to meet a collector of reputable standing who was ever defrauded by any one in Cincinnati.

You may ask, "of what concern is this charge to Mr. W. K. M.?" Of the greatest importance.

As an Ohioan, I belong to the Cincinnati Historical Society and the State Archaeological Society, two bodies which have enrolled upon their charts some three thousand of the most intelligent and wealthy citizens of the valley. A sweeping assertion of "archaeological fraud" may injure several grand museums, every collector and these societies. While I shall do all in my power to ferret out fraud, I will not sit idly by and hear one attack a whole community.

If the instigators of this trouble will give us proof, I am certain there is not a collector in the Ohio Valley who will not assist in the prosecution of the guilty (if there be any guilty). But until either some person is named, or some crime of an archaeological character specified, I for one, will refuse to listen to the cry of the fable "wolf, wolf." Name your man and I will help you provided your charge is just.

WARREN K. MOOREHEAD.

PLAIN TALK is the best paper I take out of twelve, It improves every trip it makes in this direction,—R. S., Demorest, Ga.

NUMISMATICS.

CHARLES T. TATMAN, - - - EDITOR,
93 PIEDMONT ST., WORCESTER, MASS.

THERE is a scarcity of papers devoted to coin-collecting, but there are thousands of collectors. So many of PLAIN TALK's subscribers are interested in the science of numismatics that the editor has seen fit to establish a coin department in his paper, with your humble servant to conduct the column. While I realize my inability to do justice to my subject, I shall try to make the department useful to the readers of PLAIN TALK.

Any items of interest will be very acceptable from collectors.

Next month a section will be given up to queries and answers. If you have any old coins, the nationality of which you do not know, send a rubbing of them to the editor of this department and he will give as much light on the subject as possible.

Mr. John C. Schayer, the well-known coin dealer of Boston, has left his Devonshire Street location where his office was in the basement, and has moved to the third floor at 45 Milk Street. Collectors visiting Boston will find Mr. Schayer a pleasant gentleman.

Mr. C. M. Dyer, of Worcester, Mass., has a set of United States cents for which he has been offered one thousand dollars.

The veteran coin collector, Dr. George F. Heath, of Monroe, Michigan, is once more in the publishing field, his paper being a semi-monthly, *The Numismatist*. Three numbers have already appeared.

Mr. M. Rivett, a leading coin man of Pittsburg, died recently at the age of seventy-five years.

It is said that a New York dealer in coins has sold about five hundred sets of the "Congo Free State" coins of 1888.

The Scott Stamp and Coin Co. sold an extensive collection of Greek and Roman coins at auction, February 16th and 17th.

1890 was a great year for new African coins. Liberia issued a set of pattern pieces. Among the prettiest specimens, however, are the two styles of the penny issued by the Orange Free State, and the penny of the Cape of Good Hope. The South African Republic also issued its first coins last year.

Collectors should recognize the wisdom in the following bit of sarcasm from the Philadelphia *Call*: "We have no objection to the man who rides a hobby—not even if he rides it to death. We only protest when he takes up the whole road with it."

Why should there not be an American Numismatic Association, after the general plan of the A. P. A. and the A. A. A.? We are aware that there exists in New York an aged and respected association called the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, but we would have one to include the less advanced set of collectors who constitute the great body of the numismatic fraternity.

The late General Francis E. Spinner was the originator of the "postal currency" idea. During the war metallic money was so scarce that people were obliged to use postage stamps for small change. To make this method easier, General Spinner, who was for so many years United States Treasurer, had the stamps pasted upon slips of paper in the amounts of twenty-five or fifty cents. This idea was soon abandoned, however, and the Treasurer persuaded the Postmaster General to have fac-similes of stamps printed on paper in the form of a note, with a promise to redeem in real postage stamps. Finally, however, the Postal Department became tired of this care and the issuance of minor bills was turned over to the Treasury Department. Then followed the real "fractional currency."

A Safe Investment.

ONCE more we wish to call attention to the advertisement of the Atlantic-Pacific Railway Tunnel Co. We believe an investment in this enterprise to be an absolutely safe one.

PLAIN TALK

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT

No. 5 BEEKMAN STREET, NEW YORK,

BY

PLAIN TALK PUBLISHING COMPANY

(INCORPORATED.)

The EXCHANGE and MART of Boston, and the STAMP WORLD and HUBBARD'S MAGAZINE of Lake Village, N. H., have been combined with this paper.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

IN ADVANCE.

Per Annum, 50 Cents; Six Months, 25 Cents.
To Foreign Countries, 75 cents per annum.

The above rates apply to subscriptions, pure and simple: if the privilege of the Exchange and Sale Department is desired the price is \$1.00 per year—i. e., 50 cents in addition to the regular subscription. See also notice at head of that department.

PLAIN TALK will be stopped at expiration of subscription when the publishers are so requested, but unless so requested it will not be stopped. Subscribers will please note this fact. We have no desire to force the paper upon its readers, and a simple request to stop will be all that is necessary, but unless this request is received it will be continued.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Per line per insertion, 10 cents; per inch, \$1.00; per column, \$8.00. Space less than one column must be paid at inch rates; less than one inch at line rates. Ten per cent. discount for six months; 20 per cent. for one year. Rates invariable and all advertisements subject to approval.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post Office.

NEW YORK, MARCH, 1891.

LET all subscribers take advantage of the new book offers.

WHAT a whirligig is time! An old gentleman in Brooklyn, who before the war was the owner of a large plantation, with nearly three hundred slaves, ekes out a precarious living on a weekly wage of \$1.50. his employer being a negro.

SPECIAL attention is asked to the changes regarding the use of the "Exchange Department." See notice at head of this page, and also under the department itself. Recent subscribers may continue to use the department as usual, until the expiration of their subscriptions.

IT IS our desire to keep PLAIN TALK "in touch" with its readers to the fullest possible extent. To this end we invite criticisms from all. If a reader wishes any particular department extended, or a new one created, we shall be glad to hear from him. If questions arise regarding any branch of collecting, let us help to settle them for you. If you want help in your school studies, write to us; or your games and sports; or—anything.

SUBSCRIBERS to the *Exchange and Mart*, who had paid in advance for that paper, have been duly credited on the PLAIN TALK list for such advance time as their former balance indicated. They will find the credit date on the wrapper of the present issue, and are asked to at once inform the publishers by postal card or letter if, for any reason, this credit is unsatisfactory or seems to them to be incorrect. Unless the present publishers receive word to the contrary, they will conclude that these credits are satisfactory.

"Plain Talk" and Its Aims.

PLAIN TALK is intended for "boys and girls at school and home," and, withal, "speaks for itself." Still, as it is seen each month for the first time by many readers, it may not be out of place to briefly state what it is, and what it hopes to be.

For the present, then, PLAIN TALK is an illustrated monthly paper devoted to those lines which are of interest

to right-minded and right-thinking young people, and to those older ones who have not passed the boundary line of "four score and ten." It has no sympathy with, and only pity for, those boys and girls who revel in the regulation "blood and thunder" serial, but believes that in nine cases out of ten they would prefer wholesome literature if it was as easily obtained.

It gives each month more or less space to original stories of adventure, tales of school life, vacation experiences, interesting anecdotes, biographical notes, etc. In all its statements it aims to be both brief and accurate; in short to be true to its name—to deal only in plain talk. It believes that a hearty laugh is good medicine, and tries to now and then coax a smile to the lips of its readers.

It aims to give the latest intelligence concerning the different branches of collecting, touching upon stamps, coins, minerals, Indian relics, natural history, etc. In the line of nature it does not believe in collecting merely for the sake of collecting, but would inculcate in its readers a love for all the beautiful things that God has made, and a respect for the rights of even the humblest of His creatures.

Prize "word hunts" are never-failing objects of interest, and each month's contests in this line are sharp and exciting. A competent editor has special charge of this department, and liberal prizes are given.

"How To Do It" is the title given to one department, and under this heading will be found directions for the making of all sorts of contrivances, and the doing of all manner of things.

Another department is known as "Games and Pastimes," and seasonable instructions are given for games, both new and old, for in-door as well as out-door amusement.

The ladies have a department all to themselves, though it is an open question if the interest in it is confined entirely to the gentler sex. Flowers, fancy work, and the like, all have attention under careful editorial supervision.

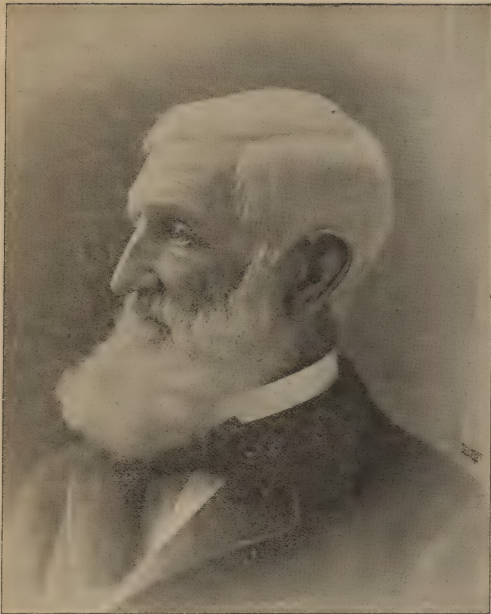
PLAIN TALK's readers are invited and urged to take the fullest possible share in the discussion of matters of interest to them in the various departments. The exchange column may be used by all subscribers, under certain restrictions, free of charge. An interesting correspondence column is also printed each month.

In short, every effort is made that the paper may cover in an attractive way every field which is of interest to the bright boys and girls of to-day, and it hopes to grow in circulation and influence until it finds its way to tens of thousands of homes.

A New England History-Book.

HOW NEW ENGLAND WAS MADE, by FRANCES A. HUMPHREY; D. Lothrop Co., Boston. 12 boards, \$1.25.

MRS. HUMPHREY is so thoroughly at home in simplifying history that it goes without saying that her story as to "How New England was made" would be full of interest, instruction and fascination to the younger history readers for whom it was especially designed. But, more than this, the neat and attractive volume will be found not less interesting by older readers, for, while couched in simple language it is not of that grade of so-called children's books in which young readers are written down to. Mrs. Humphrey could scarcely be other than clear and direct in style, and the chapters that tell New England's early story are full of concise statements that are almost photographic in the pictures they give of the days of the forefathers. The book covers the period from the coming of the Pilgrims to the coming of Liberty—a space of fully one hundred and fifty historic years. The story is traced from the beginning of New England's civilization easily and well, and no young reader to whom the book is given can complain of dullness or find other than interest in its pages. Such books, thus written, serve to strengthen the growing Americanism of our children and the record of so marked a development of manliness and patriotism as New England's early story presents, can limit its interest to no special section, but is for the reading and instruction of young Americans in every section of our land.



BANCROFT.

THE recent death of America's great historian makes it fitting to publish an account of his life, with a recent portrait.

George Bancroft was born October 3, 1800, in Worcester, Massachusetts. The house honored as being his birthplace is still standing. The father of the historian was the Rev. Aaron Bancroft, a prominent Unitarian minister. The latter realized the value of a fine education and sent his son to Exeter Academy, where he prepared for college. Harvard graduated George Bancroft in the year 1817. The University of Gottingen next received him, and from there Bancroft went to several other leading German universities where he made the acquaintance of some of the leading scholars of the world. Among the latter may be mentioned Goethe, Von Humboldt, Cousin and Bunsen.

When Bancroft returned to the United States he became a tutor in Greek at Harvard, after which he opened a preparatory school in company with Dr. Joseph G. Cogswell. Mr. Bancroft became deeply interested in politics, being a thorough-going Jeffersonian democrat. In 1830 he was elected against his will to seat in the State Legislature, which position he absolutely refused to take. The next year he declined a nomination for State Senator. He was, however, a noted and brilliant political orator, and so aggressive as to draw the fire of the Whig press generally. The treatment he received at the hands of his political opponents disturbed him so much that he even lost some regard for his native State.

Mr. Bancroft commenced work on his History of the United States in 1834. Four years later, President Van Buren appointed him collector of the port of Boston, which office he held until the change in administration in 1841. Mr. Bancroft was next a candidate for governor of Massachusetts, but was of course defeated in that stronghold of the Whigs.

When the Democrats returned to power in 1845, President Polk appointed George Bancroft as Secretary of the Navy.

One of the monuments of that administration is the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Mr. Bancroft resigned from the cabinet in the latter part of 1846, in order to become Minister to the British court. He remained in England two years, after which time he returned home and devoted himself to his historical work. For twenty years he continued in that labor.

In 1867, President Johnson appointed Mr. Bancroft as Minister to Russia, in which office he remained until 1873, when he requested to be relieved. The rest of his life was spent upon his great historical work, which is looked upon as the standard authority in questions upon the history of the United States. Bancroft's home has been for many years in the city of Washington, and it was in the nation's capital that he died of old age, January 17, 1891. He was buried in the city of his birth.

His health had always been excellent, which fact he attributed to his love of out-door exercise. Until very recently one portion of Mr. Bancroft's daily routine had been a horse-back ride. When that pleasure had to be given up, he contented himself with a walk about his delightful city. His summer residence was at Newport, R. I., where he had a delightful cottage overlooking the ocean. Mr. Bancroft's hobby was horticulture, and his speciality, the growing of roses. His magnificent rose-garden at "Rose-Cliff," Newport has become quite famous.

Rev. Dr. William Rice, of Springfield, Mass., thus describes the personal characteristics of the historian when in the prime of life: "He was a remarkable looking man, of rather small frame, with dark, bright eyes and black hair, which he wore curiously, combed straight around from the back of the head, not parted but cut short at the top of the forehead, not evenly, but curving inwardly over each temple. He had a fine, rather high voice, resembling Robert Rantoul's, and yet it could be heard clearly at a great distance. He was a fervid speaker, abounding in gesture and very earnest in delivery."

Mr. Bancroft was twice married, and had three children, two sons and a daughter. He was of an amiable disposition and his life was a happy one.

The first volume of the History of the United States appeared in 1834, and the twelfth nearly fifty years later. An edition has also been printed lately consisting of six volumes. Of course it is as a historian that Bancroft will be known, but he has not been entirely absent from the other fields of literature. In 1823 he published a volume of poems, but it is said that he afterwards destroyed every copy which he could secure, so ashamed was he of their quality. He also published a volume of "Literary and Historical Miscellanies."

A fact to show the high appreciation of Bancroft's services to his country among Washington people, is that he was the only person not privileged by official position who was allowed on the floor of the Senate chamber.

Such men as Bancroft are they who give strength and dignity to a nation. A man may rise to high position on the wave of popularity, but his success is not to be compared with that of him who bestows a lasting benefit upon his country. The name of George Bancroft will be held in high esteem as long as the United States remains a nation.

CHARLES T. TATMAN.

It is very evident that only as we do right will our ideals of right become elevated; only as we follow what we know will real knowledge be increased; only as our lives are faithful and kind will our affections expand and the spirit of love and trust fill our hearts. In truth, it is only as the heart and the hand work together that the man himself can truly be said to improve.—*The Household Monthly*.

Virtue can never be attained without great pains and diligence; and if you cool and linger in this pursuit, the moment that you gain not ground you lose it.



JOHN WALTER SCOTT.
PHILATELY.

ALVAH DAVISON, - - - - - EDITOR,
176 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Prominent Stamp Collectors.

IN every business, profession or calling there are men whose names are synonymous with their goods and this fact was never more strikingly illustrated than in the case of the gentleman whose portrait we this month present.

To mention stamps is to think of Scott, and the two are inseparable.

A reason for this is found in the fact that Mr. Scott is called the "Father of Philately," and none have been found to dispute his title. He began at what might be called the beginning, and by fostering the pursuit in every way he has seen the science grow year by year until in these days he looks around and its devotees are like the sands of the ocean, innumerable.

The writer's recollection only extends back about fifteen years and at that time Mr. Scott was located in Fulton Street just opposite his present store.

He has made several changes since then, but few can show a busier life in any pursuit than J. W. Scott in the cause of Philately.

It has been truthfully stated that collectors come and collectors go but Scott lives on forever, and although such a statement cannot be literally true, yet he has seen generation after generation of stamp collectors pass away, and he is still working away at his post issuing books, pamphlets and other philatelic matter, each an improvement over its predecessor.

As an authority on stamps and matters pertaining thereto his opinion is widely sought and few would care to differ with him.

His interest in the pursuit is not confined to his own city or even to this country as all space has been annihilated to carry his name into distant climes and societies without number, are proud to record J. W. Scott among their members.

His large stamp business is at present located at 163 Fulton Street, New York, and here at any hour of the day will be found many of the leading collectors investing in rarities, the very mention of which is enough to arouse the ire of their less fortunate brethren.

All classes and conditions of collectors will be found at this store from the small boy who desires a five cent packet to the man who is pondering over a \$200. specimen, and all meet with the same courteous treatment as all are collectors to Mr. Scott.

His latest work, and one for which he has had praise enough to turn any man's head is his "Best" stamp album, a review of which was given in our last number.

Should any of our readers visit New York we would advise them by all means to drop in and have a few words with the famous J. W. Scott.

The U. S. Grilled Stamps.

HAVING had several inquiries regarding the grilled or embossed stamps of the United States and the subject being one of general interest, I will answer the questions by rapidly sketching the entire series, and in order that the collector may more readily comprehend the descriptions, I have inserted cuts for the purpose of showing the various sizes.

The word grille comes from the French and means a small gridiron or grating. The word "embossed" describes the feature much better, this word being defined by Webster "to fashion the surface with raised work."

The embossing is composed of small squares punched in the stamps, and it was claimed by the inventor that when the cancelling ink was applied, it would sink into the fibre of the paper, and thus prevent its being washed out, a matter of great moment to the government as they lost large sums owing to the washing of stamps by unscrupulous persons.

The first variety with embossing was issued in May, 1867, this being the ordinary letter stamp of the three cent value, and the embossing covered the entire back of the stamp.

The first variety was continued in use only a few months when it gave place to an embossing 13x16 millimetres in size, this being composed of

sixteen rows of twenty squares each and appearing also on the three cent value. This stamp is usually priced at three dollars but the price is excessive, as the stamps of this variety are quite frequently met with, while those with the embossing all over are scarce.

The second variety was retired about January, 1868, and in its place appeared the values from one to fifteen cents having the same design as the 1867 issue, with the exception of the five cents, brown. On these the

embossing was further reduced to the size of 11x14 mm, and composed of fourteen rows of seventeen squares.

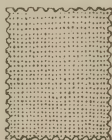
After a life of about ten months the 11x14 series gave way to one a trifle smaller, the size being 9x14 mm, with twelve rows of seventeen squares.

With this size the entire set of values from one to ninety cents appeared the designs being the same as had been in use since 1861.

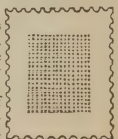
In the year following, 1869, the embossing underwent another reducing process, this time it appearing on the new set of square stamps in size 9x9 mm.

This entire issue was embossed, the same series also appearing without the embossing. The high values of the plain backs are very scarce, and much doubt has even been expressed whether they were issued, but of this I think there can be no question, as it has been stated by the officials that the entire set were so put out.

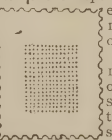
The final issue of our stamps bearing the embossing appeared in May, 1870, the size at this time being 10x12 mm, and from this it appears to have gradually got smaller, either through wear or intention, until 8x10 mm. was about the size.



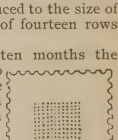
Grilled all over.



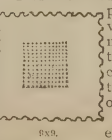
13x16.



11x14.



9x14.



9x9.

On this issue the embossing is less distinct than on any of the previous issues, on many specimens it being hardly perceptible, while good, clear ones are the exception and not the rule.

Many specimens of this issue I have picked out which had only half of one row, and some only two or three squares.

Perhaps the unsatisfactory working of the machine had much to do with its retirement, but at any rate in 1872 the embossing was dropped entirely, the same set of designs continuing on for years longer with plain backs.

Nearly all the sizes of embossings will vary somewhat, but never over one or two rows, and were anyone to attempt a classification of these variations, I fear he would find it a long and wearisome job.

As a field for the collector of United States stamps it is an interesting one and although it might appear as if we knew everything in connection with the embossed issues, I believe there will be much out in the future when the subject is given a thorough study, as I firmly believe it will be by some one.

Notes.

ST. LOUIS now issues the two largest stamp papers in the country, the *Philatelic Journal of America* and the *Standard Philatelist*. If advertising pays, as we are taught to believe it does, these papers should have long life.

Mekel's Weekly Stamp News in a recent number gives a portrait of Mr. Ferrary, the gentleman who is credited with having the largest stamp collection in the world. He looks like a man of about thirty or over unless the picture belies him.

The Philatelic Society of New York has been organized with Mr. Chas. B. Corwin as president, and forty-six members as founders. This society is composed of the foremost of the Metropolitan collectors and a rigid scrutiny is exercised over all applicants.

In our last issue I made a query in regard to J. M. Hubbard's paper. The publisher of this paper answers it by informing me that *PLAIN TALK* will fill the subscription list of the publication mentioned. Thus Hubbard again retires to obscurity but I fear he will be unable to long remain there as he has the virus of stamps in his veins and it is difficult to remove it permanently.

GAMES AND PASTIMES.

Contributions for this department are solicited in regard to every variety of indoor and outdoor amusement.

The Word Hunt.

AFTER the excitement caused by the lamp and type-writer contests there seems to be a dropping out of many contestants, still there was a larger number this month and the leaders were bunched. With the base word "Transquantain" the prizes are awarded as follows:

First prize to J. W. Falkner, Freeport, Pa., 184 correct words.

Second prize to Mrs. T. N. McClelland, 183 correct words.

The New Word Building Contest.

ANOTHER contest is announced and the word selected is

SOUTHERNLY.

Note this particular: Hereafter all prize papers must be sent to GEO. D. THOMAS, 14 High Street, Waltham, Mass., who is to have charge of this contest.

The rules governing the contest are as follows:

1. Only subscribers can compete but any one may send their subscriptions within their list of words.
2. Proper names will not be allowed, and only words found in the body of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which will be considered a final authority in deciding all disputed points.
3. Prefixes, suffixes and abbreviations will not be counted, nor will plurals be allowed.
4. Words marked "obsolete" will not be counted, unless they are still current in some of their meanings.
5. Words of different meaning, but spelt the same, count as one word.
6. Words of the same meaning, but spelled differently, count one word for each spelling, unless one is obsolete.
7. No letter can be used more than once in the same word unless used more than once in the word or words used as a basis of the contest.
8. All lists must be written in ink (or on a type-writer) and must be alphabetically arranged, and the words numbered consecutively.
9. The full name and address of the contestant must be written at the top of the first sheet, and also the word used as the basis of the contest.
10. In case of a close contest, the number of errors and the general neatness of the work will be taken into consideration in awarding the prize.

The contest will close April 10th, and the result will be announced in the May issue.

The first prize will be five of our new Prize Books, and the second prize three from the same list. No third prize will be awarded in this contest.

Word Building.

UNDER the caption "How to do it," in the February number of *PLAIN TALK*, J. W. Falkner tells the secret of winning in prize contests. Mr. Falkner seems to have reduced the question to its simplest form. He has a correct idea, as will be shown in what will follow. A request has been received for a list of winners in the word hunt department, but as there was no time stated as from what date this list should be compiled, it is given from January, 1889, up to and including the January contest of 1891. All who have won two prizes or more will appear in the tabulated list, while winners of only one will be credited with at least a notice.

Winners.	First.	Second.	Third.
J. W. Falkner.....	6	4	0
Mrs. T. N. McClelland.....	3	2	1
Emma L. Hauck.....	3	2	3
Albert Pennell.....	3	2	3
C. C. Harris.....	2	1	3
Geo. D. Thomas.....	1	3	0
E. C. Farman.....	0	3	0
M. P. Chase.....	1	1	0
W. V. Kip.....	1	1	0
Sarah Hrbek.....	1	1	0
L. A. Hennick.....	0	0	2
W. R. Gordon.....	0	0	2

Other single prize winners are J. N. Smith, F. L. Sherrburne, J. W. Stowell, first; W. H. Danforth and Anna Blackie, second; B. F. Heasland, E. A. Ridenour, C. I. Favour, W. C. Robinson, Fred. R. Grenny, Jennie McCall, Tillie Taylor, Belle Babcock, Jennie R. Booth and C. C. Duff, third; E. V. Heath and C. D. Faris, fourth; J. D. McLaughlin, J. F. Hall and W. S. Bement, fifth.

Of the six who lead, Mr. Harris has not sent in a list in several months, while the one who bears the sixth name is out of it, by virtue of having the contest in charge.

It would seem by the above that Mr. Falkner has the right idea, as he easily heads the list, and now that he has told the secret of his success, it is hoped that others will profit by it and enter the contests. It is a pastime that is not only amusing but instructive and great improvement is noticed at the present time over lists that were sent in one year ago.

GEO. D. THOMAS.

A New Puzzle.

1.	1	1
3	3	3
5	5	5
7	7	7
9	9	9

The point is to add together any six of the above figures and make the total 21. Can you do it?

An Old Time Riddle.

"There was a man of Adam's race,
Who had a certain dwelling place.
'Twas not in heaven, nor yet in hell,
Nor on the earth where mortals dwell:
'Twas thatched without, and covered o'er,
Where no man dwelt, since or before.
Now if you know this man of fane,
Tell where he lived, and what's his name."

NATURAL HISTORY.

Contributions to this department are solicited from all readers. Questions will be answered by competent authorities.

Taming a Flock of Quails.

MRS. D. N. SNYDER, of Jefferson township, saw a lot of quails dusting themselves under some currant bushes in the back end of her garden. The birds looked so happy and contented that she thought it would be too bad to disturb them, so she returned to the house without pulling the weeds out of a patch of onions as she had gone there for the purpose of doing. In an hour or so the quails had disappeared in the tall timothy of the adjoining meadow, and Mrs. Snyder scattered some buckwheat around where they had been wallowing. On the following day the birds came there again, gobbled up the buckwheat, and had a good time. Every day for a week or so Mrs. Snyder scattered grain among the bushes for the birds to feed on, and the birds soon got so that they looked for food in the garden as regularly as they did for a resting place at night out in the woods back of the big meadow lot.

One morning the kind-hearted woman forgot to throw the buckwheat, but the quails reminded her of her negligence, by appearing at the usual hour and making a great fuss and noise because there wasn't any grain in the garden for them to pick up. Mrs. Snyder let the birds hunt for other kinds of food that day, and for several mornings after that she didn't fail to give them a good feed of buckwheat. Then she missed a morning on purpose to see how the quails would act when they didn't find any grain near the currant bushes, watching from a second story window for them to make their appearance.

Promptly on time the whole flock crept under the garden fence from the meadow, ran among the bushes and began to dodge and flutter about where they had been in the habit of finding the buckwheat. When they had searched long enough to learn that no grain had been put there for them, the birds piped in low tones, fluttered uneasily, scattered into the vegetable beds, and appeared to be very much disappointed. In a little while the quails gave up the search, assembled under the currant bushes and went to dusting themselves in the soil. Mrs. Snyder counted fourteen in the flock, and then she went downstairs, got a basinful of buckwheat and tipped her way into the garden.

When she had got as near to the quails as she could get without scaring them Mrs. Snyder flung a handful of buckwheat toward the quiet little flock. It fell among them, and they all scampered under the fence and went out of sight in a hurry. Then she threw some more of the grain on the ground where they had been and secreted herself behind a row of pea vines. Presently one of the birds ventured to crawl under the fence into the garden. It soon found the buckwheat and set to filling its crop, and at this the other birds took courage, filed from their hiding places and went to picking up the grain as though each was determined to get its share.

From her place of concealment Mrs. Snyder flung a handful of buckwheat into the air so that it fell into the midst of the flock. It scared the birds a little, but they quickly resumed their feeding, and Mrs. Snyder began to whistle to them, flinging more grain into the air, as she whistled. That excited their curiosity just enough to make them look up for a moment, and Mrs. Snyder emptied the basin, and stole away without letting the birds see her. She fed the quails in this way for a few days, gradually got them used to her whistle and voice, and let them get sight of her by degrees. Inside of a month from the time she first saw the birds in the garden she had them so well tamed that they fluttered out of the meadow whenever she called them, ate in her presence and did not seem to fear her at all. Since then Mrs. Snyder has taken a good deal of comfort with her strange little flock, and she said the other day that the confidence the birds have in her pays her many times over for all the trouble she has made herself in getting the wild little creatures to be as tame as they are.—*Scranton, Pa., Correspondent.*

THE heat produced from the light of a fire-fly is only one per cent. of an equal amount of candle-light. The bug's light is produced by a chemical action, as it is increased by putting the fly in oxygen and diminished in an atmosphere of nitrogen.

Natural History Notes.

IT HAS been rumored that the society of American Taxidermists is to be revived, and it is to be hoped that it will. This society had among its members some of the most prominent working naturalists in this country.

Fashion says mink furs must be worn and this once valuable animal is again to be sought for. Perhaps the fur seal which has usurped the mink for some years past, is becoming extinct, scarcer at least.

In regard to Miss Insee's queries I would say that she was right in regard to the vivid red bird with heavy beak and crest, being the cardinal-grosbeak, the other is probably the summer red bird.—(*Pyrranga astivia*.) The Indian relics may be discordial or game stones used by the Indians in playing various games of chance and skill.

Among the most fascinating work of the naturalist is study of the life history of animate objects, great and small. Can any of PLAIN TALK's young readers give sketches of the life history of the gray rabbit, the shrew, the chipmunk or ground squirrel, the crow, the quail or any common insects or reptiles? By life history I mean the habits, haunts, food and surroundings of the animal at all seasons, and at all hours of the day. A few such sketches would be vastly interesting and instructive.—A. B. F.

[A prize of one of our new books for the best article of not over 500 words on the crow, as suggested above; also the same for a like article on the chipmunk. Only subscribers can compete. Articles must be in by May 1.]

Antics of an Owl

MY little pet owl is very particular as to his diet. It is not always possible to procure birds and mice for him and then he will content himself with tender, lean beef, quiet fresh. He is so particular in that matter, through, that he will not eat fr sh pork. He seldom drinks water and never uses it for the purpose of washing, preferring to roll and scratch about in a lump of drift sand like a domestic fowl. In fine feather he now is, and he keeps himself beautifully clean! His legs are long, and he uses his toes and claws with the dexterity of a monkey; in fact, when at his little games, he is more like a monkey than an owl. His conversation, kept up continually, is a croon and chatter, and when in high glee he will puff the feathers of his throat out and look intently at me with his bright, yellow eyes, and treat us with a solo sounding like the gobble of some unfortunate turkey. If I ask him, as a particular favor, to change that tune, he will give us a succession of shrill barks like a terrier. He roars like a little tiger when his dignity is ruffled and squeals like a pig. This does not occur very often and when it does the fault is my own. It generally happens when he is introduced to strangers, whom he hates. As a rule he is most amiable. If I wanted to cure a man of melancholy and never smiling grief I would present him with a little owl, the Punchinello of his tribe.

Who Can Tell?

WHILE living in Mississippi, my son and I used to nail boards on the picket fence, and scatter on them crumbs for the birds. Many familiar birds came to the feast, but there were two, (male and female, I dare say) different from any others I have ever seen. They were of an indigo blue, about the size of quails, (called partridges in the south) and had curved beaks. Can any one tell me their name? I have no access to Audubon's splendid books. I do not think there was a speck of white or any color but blue about these birds.—MRS. E. E. INSLIE.

How the Eagle can Look at the Sun.

THE eagle is enabled to look at the sun by reason of the existence of a thin, semi-transparent veil, which can be instantaneously drawn over the front of the eye. It is known as the nictitating (*i. e.*, winking) membrane, and acts as a screen to shut out the too great intensity of light, so that with its assistance the eagle can confront the sun even at noonday. The membrane is so fine as not to obstruct the sight when drawn, like a curtain, across the pupil, and when not in use lies folded up in the inner corner of the eye.

The Mocking Bird on Guard.

THIS amusing songster, so highly esteemed in the countries in which it is imported, is almost as common in some parts of Central America as the robins are in our country lanes. Free in the woods they learn to imitate a number of birds so correctly as to deceive any one. The mocking bird is by no means weak or timid, and can defend itself against a score of other birds, as we have more than once had occasion to see. They are, quarlesome, living alone, except at certain seasons when they seek mates, soon to separate again.

The mocking bird selects some tree, particularly that called palma real or royal palm, and makes it its headquarters as soon as the fruit is ripe, appearing like clusters of golden berries beneath the broad waving leaves. The bird in possession of the tree devotes his time and attention to guarding the fruit. He cannot possibly eat it all, but will allow no other a share of it, and this is not so much because he thinks of the morrow as because he loves to dispute. He pretends to be not at home while all the time he is lying in wait. He will perch on the roof of the nearest house, or if away from habitations, on another tree, keeping as silent as a mouse does when a cat is hard by, not even indulging in "forty winks." The instant some bright winged songster alights among that yellow fruit down swoops the watcher and trouble ensues, generally ending in the unwelcome visitor, being driving off as hungry as he came, temper and feathers both ruffled. Then back to the house top or tree flies the mocker to await patiently another adversary.

The natives of Honduras and adjoining countries take the fledglings from their nest and bring them upon corn, boiled, ground, and mixed with water to the consistency of dough. They thrive well on it, and having had one wing clipped are left free in house and garden, subsisting on earthworms and other insects; but they generally become in the end the prey of cats.—ALICE D. LE PLONGEON in *Home Journal*.

A Bear Story.

ONE of the most exciting hunts had by Mr. Pacheco, the recently appointed minister to Central America, occurred during one summer night off the California seacoast, where the seals were in the habit of going. The bears came here for the purpose of capturing and feeding upon the seals. Mr. Pacheco and his riders took a station at the top of a high bluff to wait for the return of the grizzly that they had seen go down below to feed. He came back about 11 o'clock and when he was fairly upon the top of the cliff the four lassos whirled and the bear was caught. They were never more successful in a first effort. The four lassos were thrown as if directed by one hand. Each paw was caught, but the bear was greasy from his seal feeding, and one lasso after another slipped off. Of course in such hunting each rider has two or three lariats in reserve. As the lariats slipped off the bear charged. To protect themselves it was necessary to throw new ropes and upon the instant. The fight kept up for nearly an hour, when the bear and his hunters both gave up the contest. He was too slippery to be held, but the persistence of the hunters had so daunted his spirit that he was very glad to run off at the last, when the hunters became convinced that it was a hopeless case. Mr. Pacheco has killed many grizzlies. In one instance he had a very narrow escape. This was when he was riding along upon the banks of a dry bed of a stream. The grizzly he was after was thirty feet below him. As a proof of the wonderful agility of this animal Mr. Pacheco says that this particular bear, without the slightest warning of attack, bounded from the bed of the stream clear and clean to the flank of his horse. It was the sudden bolt of the animal that saved the rider. The other hunters came up in a moment, and in three minutes afterwards the bear that had made such a courageous charge was lying helpless in the nooses of the hunters.

WE trace a good many orders to your paper and think it an excellent medium for advertisers.—*The Farm Journal Pub. Co.*, Richmond, Va.

Katydids.

WHEN traveling on the Grand Canal in China, I met a boat load of these contentious little creatures, and they were making such a racket as I have seldom heard. Recognizing the old familiar sound, I asked my husband, who had been a missionary there for some years, what use the people could possibly make of them, so when we were walking the streets of Hangchow, he showed me men selling the noisy little things, in lieu of song-birds, in little bamboo cages, about four inches, cubic. If you have ever heard the *sex-ta-val* music of the Chinese, you will not wonder that the katydid's screech commands itself to their ears.—This anent the article on Katydids in the PLAIN TALK for January.—MRS. E. E. INSLEE, *Loddell, La.*

A Mischievous Squirrel.

THE gray squirrel in Phalon's tree on Cemetery avenue has been at its old tricks again. He had so much fun Saturday morning that he could not resist the temptation to repeat the experience, and the following day he was practicing sharpshooting once more. The first intimation anyone had that he had returned to his perch in the hemlock was when a number of girls, who were walking under the tree, were struck with several cones. Their shrieks attracted the attention of several people in that neighborhood, and the squirrel's delighted chattering quickly informed them as to the cause of the hubbub. A crowd of boys gathered to chase the little animal away, and they had a nice time doing it. They used stones and the squirrel used cones. One of the boys wears a black eye as proof that the animal can throw accurately, while there is no record that the squirrel was struck by any of the numerous small quarries that went sailing through the branches. After about an hour's sport the frisky little fellow concluded that he had had enough and skipped from tree to tree to his home in the cemetery.—*Birmingham Transcript*.

More than One Way of Fighting.

IN 1819 (says a writer in the *Century*), the whaleship Syren, while on a visit to the Pacific Ocean, met with an adventure which would have proved fatal to all hands but for a quick stratagem of the mate. One fine day, off one of the Pelew Islands, all the boats being after whales, and but a few men left aboard the vessel, a large band of armed natives suddenly swarmed over the bulwarks. The crew fled to the rigging, leaving the naked, howling savages in full command of the ship. The mate, on coming alongside, took in the situation at a glance, and quickly ordered the men to open the arm-chests and scatter on deck all the tacks they could find. In a moment it fairly rained tacks upon the naked savages. The deck was soon covered with these little nails. They pierced the feet of the islanders, who danced about with pain, which increased with every step they took, until with yells of rage and agony, they tumbled headlong into the sea and swam ashore.

Every stamp collector should read all advertisements of stamps. Many bargains are sometimes found in a very small advertisement, and once missed they may never appear again. Good things usually come in small quantities, and dealers don't have to use a large space to dispose of bargains. The writer has purchased many a desirable stamp which was seemingly lost in a small space, but it is the fact of being wide awake that fills your spaces at low prices.

Ladies' Exchange Column.

Exchange notices of not more than forty words inserted free to subscribers only.

Mrs. Emma L. Hauck, White Plains, N. Y.—Will exchange crocheted lace and crocheted lace samples.

Mrs. L. C. Woodbury, Spencer, Mass.—Has one year's numbers of *Phrenological Magazine*, set of furs and new braided rugs; which she will exchange for articles of like value.

Mrs. J. W. Boss, Athol, Cumberland Co., N. S.—Would like to exchange lace or fancy work for United States papers or magazines. Write first. No postals, please.

Mrs. J. H. Gossett Salt Creek, Ind.—Will weave acorn charms from your own hair, in exchange for good books or magazines.

Mrs. Mary L. Walton, Parsons, Kas.—Has Chautauque magazines '86 to '89, cloth bound books, olive plush hand bag, to exchange for gingham or all wool plaid goods.

Mrs. Jennie E. Southworth, East Hickory, Pa.—Has a Boston dress cutting system, knit and crocheted lace to exchange for knitting silk or materials for fancy wo. k.

Gertrude La Blanche, Charlestown, Mass.—Will exchange any quilt patterns with complete directions and diagrams that I have not for the following: lady's wreath, light of midnight, rose album, ribbon border, star center piece, star cluster.

PUZZLEDOM

CONDUCTED BY "FISCO."

Address all communications pertaining to this Department to EDGAR D. MELVILLE, Puzzle Editor PLAIN TALK, 924 Upland Street, Chester, Pa.

New Puzzles.

No. 16.

CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

My first is in spades but not in clubs;
My second " bears " cubs;
My third " wight " fairy;
My fourth " woolly " hairy;
My fifth " piety " power;
My sixth " castle " tower;
My whole is the name of a beautiful flower.

"DON."

No. 17.

TRANSPOSITIONS.

Whole I am a poor man's dinner
Sometimes a menu for a dude beginner.
Next I figure in the marital state
Beware oh youth of that horrible fate.
Now come with me to a sanctum clean
It is here I *next* mostly things to glean,
But to keep up with the *LAST paratus*
There must be toil—hard toil, free and gratis.

"INCIGNITO."

No. 18.

CHARADE.

My first gives life and joy and makes
The feathered songsters local
Of usefulness my whole can boast
To sailors on a rock-bound coast.

"JNO. BRYDON."

No. 19.

DIAMOND.

1. A letter. 2. A word noting a particular person or thing. 3. To conceive.
4. Termination. 5. A letter.

"FISCO."

No. 20.

SQUARE.

1. An aboriginal of the West Indies.
2. To give extreme unction. 3. An inflammable substance from the pine. 4. Pertaining to the lower bowels. 5. A long seat.

"NEMO."

No. 21.

ENIGMA.

Whole I am a narrow passage. Behead me and I am a distinguishing or marked feature. Behead me, then transpose, and I am a tiara. Behead me in the form I was before transposed and I am an islet. Again behead me, and I am a pronoun. Once more cut off my head and leave a letter from Utah.

"E. L. H."

No. 22.

SQUARE.

1. A pronoun. 2. Stalk of grain. 3. So let it be. 4. A covering.

"PAUL PRY."

No. 23.

DIAMOND.

1. A letter. 2. Marsh. 3. One who plays on a fife. 4. Judge; arbitrator. 5. A sinew; tendon. 6. A small Portuguese coin. 7. A letter.

"E. L. H."

No. 24.

DECAPITATION.

Behead a priestly garment and have vermin; behead again and it is refreshing.

"JNO. BRYDON."

No. 25.

DIAMOND.

1. A letter. 2. A meadow. 3. A boy's name. 4. A placard. 5. A letter.

"FISCO."

Prize Contest.

To the subscriber answering the largest number of puzzles appearing in the issues of January, February and March, answers to be received until April 10th, 1891, a prize of a handsome book will be given; a second prize of another book will also be given.

Miss Emma L. Hauck's Career as a Puzzler.

My history as a puzzler dates back only a very few months, and I first started to try the word hunts and puzzles, because I noticed that J. W. F., (every one knows who that means, without my mentioning the full name), always, or almost always came out first in both the word hunts and puzzles, and I wondered if I could not be first as well as he, or to use a boy's phrase "beat him." Whether I shall ever be successful in that endeavor, remains to be proved.

Those who are timid about trying these puzzles should remember the saying: "Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt."

EMMA L. HAUCK.

Palaver.

Commencing with the February number of *The Effort*, of Detroit, Mich., A. W. Lewis of Lynn, Mass., will assume the management of the puzzle department.

George Todd of Chester, Pa., more popularly known in the puzzle world under the non-de-plume of "W. Ashington," has after nearly two years of faithful service, resigned the editorship of the puzzle department in *Vade Mecum*, of Salina, Kansas. We regret very much of our friend's departure from activity, and sincerely trust that his absence will be of short duration.

Undoubtedly there is a large number of readers of this paper who desire to become interested in Puzzledom, but are withheld from making an attempt owing to timidity. To this class we desire to state that their productions will be carefully reviewed, and proper advice and encouragement given when needed. All queries requiring an answer by letter must be accompanied with a two-cent stamp for reply, otherwise they will be answered through the medium of this department.

"Incognito" composes very good anagrams and charades, of which his productions mostly consist.

We desire to extend our thanks to "Solon" for a large batch of good puzzles received.

Kind Words from "Incognito."

FRIEND "FISCO": Your department shows improvement. Glad to see it growing so fast. I would recommend that puzzlers conform themselves to Webster alone, and leave out all googs,

foreign words, etc. A solver must have a key to unlock these intricacies, and Webster is the one to furnish it. * * * I have in view a short sketch on how to form and solve puzzles, which would be of great interest to the uninitiated. * *

Yours Fraternally,

"INCIGNITO."

We received another batch of good puzzles from "E. L. H." Thanks.

The May issue will contain answers to all puzzles published in the January, February and March numbers, also a full account of the result of the contest.

AMATEUR PRESS NOTES.

Conducted by "AN OLD BOY."

School Papers.

The uniform excellence of the various high-school journals which come to our desk is more or less a matter of wonder. The good which these papers do the different schools they represent is unquestioned. Most of them carry advertisements enough to make their issue profitable, or at least it would appear so.

Within the past few years the number of these papers has greatly multiplied, and the time is not far distant when at least one-half the high-schools of the land will be thus represented.

Would it not be a good idea for those interested in any state or section to organize a High-School Press Association? Let rules be simple, and the organization more for the purpose of acquaintance and interchange of thought than for the pulling of political wires to see who shall be at the head of the association.

Space will not permit an extended notice of the different papers, but since 1891 came in journals representing the following high-schools have been received:

Rutland, Vt.; Springfield, Mass.; Gloucester, Mass.; Omaha, Neb.; Lowell, Mass.; Oakland, Calif.; Walden, Mass.; Westfield, Mass.; Orange, N. J.; Salamanca, N. Y.; Millford, Mass.; Lawrence, Mass.; Rockford, Ill.; Deering, Me.; Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Portland, Me.; Manchester, N. H.; Athol, Mass.; Newton, Mass.; West Pittston, Pa.; Fall River, Mass.

Other papers, in the same line, though from other than high-schools are the *Argus*, from the Phila. Manual Training School; the *Era*, Rome, N. Y.; Free Academy; *Academy Monthly*, Germantown, Pa.; the *Institute Record*, Towanda, Pa.; *Chauncy-Hall Abstract*, Boston; *Hiram College Advance*, Hiram, O.; the *Tripod*, from the Roxbury, Mass., Latin School; the *Seminary Echo*, Willmar, Minn.; the *Cadet*, from St. John's College, Denver, Colo.

The *W. P. I.*, representing the Worcester, Mass., Polytechnic Institute, is deserving of especial notice, being a journal edited with more than ordinary care and judgement.

THE AMATEUR PRESS.

There seems to be activity along the lines of amateurdom in all directions, and new papers are either starting up or are being arranged for in many directions.

The writer recalls the first amateur paper he ever saw. It must have been

issued about 1870, and appeared from Woodstock, Vt., its name being the *Acorn*. To his eyes it was the most interesting paper ever issued, and there was no peace in the household to which he belonged until a printing press and outfit had been purchased and an "office" established in his chamber.

Lessons were there learned which will ever remain with him. But of this more anon.

We are always glad to receive copies of amateur papers and in subsequent issues of *PLAIN TALK* hope to comment in detail upon many of those which come to us.

Notices of projected papers will be gladly received and this paper will be sent each month to all publishers who send their own papers to us regularly.

CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

This Department is established in response to numerous requests from subscribers. All readers are invited to make use of it, remembering the following rules: First—Brevity. Second—Clarity of statement. Third—Develop knowledge of what is wanted. Fourth—The desirability of continuing themselves, as much as possible, to questions of interest to others as well as themselves. All questions will be given attention as early as possible, although in some cases more or less delay may be necessary.

HISTORY CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

Suggestions regarding this continues to come in, and it is evident that quite a degree of interest is to be manifested. As a start, we give this month a biographical sketch and portrait of Bancroft, and would suggest that those interested in the proposed club write us as to their ideas of what lines should be followed in future numbers. Be brief and to the point.

R. W. B. asks, "Do you know where a comic history of the U. S. can be obtained?"

M. M. Russell writes: "I wish *PLAIN TALK* had more reading for little girls and boys. I send a list of the presidents in verse, thinking perhaps you and your readers would like to commit them." Following is the list:

First stands the lofty Washington
That nobly great immortal one;
The older Adams next we see,
And Jefferson comes number three;
The fourth is Madison you know,
The fifth one on the list Monroe;
The sixth an Adams comes again,
And Jackson seventh in the train,
Van Buren eighth upon the line
And Harrison counts number nine;
The tenth is Tyler in his turn,
And Polk eleventh as we learn;
The twelfth is Taylor that appears,
The thirteenth Fillmore fills his years,
Then Pierce comes fourteenth into view;
Buchanan is the fifteenth due;
The sixteenth Lincoln foully slain;
The seventeenth was Johnson's reign;
Then Grant was by the people sent
To be their eighteenth president.
As the nineteenth next R. B. Hayes
Filled out the number of his days.
The twentieth came, Garfield appears,
A name the nation read through tears,
His vacant chair to Arthur came;
And twenty first we write his name,
Next Cleveland's rule appears in view
Making the number twenty-two.
Next comes Benjamin Harrison,
Twenty-three.

WATER-PROOF GLUE.

Here is the recipe asked for some months ago: To make an impermeable glue, soak ordinary glue in water until it softens, and remove it before it has lost its primitive form. After this, dissolve it in linseed oil over a slow fire until it is brought to the consistency of a jelly. This glue may be used for joining any kinds of material. In addition to strength and hardness, it has the advantage of resisting the action of water.

STAMP PRICE-LISTS.

A newly formed stamp club would be glad to receive price-lists, circulars, etc., from dealers. Address, Pioneer Stamp Club, Putnam, Conn.

AMATEUR PAPERS.

R. W. B.—The addresses of many amateur papers may be found by consulting back numbers of *PLAIN TALK*; other addresses will be given next month. There are very few papers devoted exclusively to coins, and we do not now recall any especially in the interests of young collectors.

PRICES OF PRINTING PRESSES.

D. G. F.—There are so many varieties of presses that it is difficult to say what the cost of any given size would be. Probably a satisfactory self-inker, 6x4 could be had for \$20.00. Much cheaper ones may be bought, but as a rule they are not durable. We will try to have an article explaining the different styles of presses, and giving prices, etc., prepared for an early issue of *PLAIN TALK*.

SHAKESPEARE.

A. E. B. M. A. writes: "(1) Which are considered Shakespeare's greatest plays? (2) What are the stories of the plays, 'Taming of the Shrew' and 'Fool's Revenge'?"

(1) This is an open question, and good judges differ. For the best answers to the second question, received from a subscriber before May 1, the choice of any one of "The Best Books." Limit of article, 200 words for each essay. Remember that two prizes are offered, one for the best synopsis of each play.

COLLEGE EDUCATION.

We suggest that the subscriber who sends the following "set the ball rolling" by giving us a three hundred word essay on this subject. "In various newspapers of the day you hear a great protest against college education. Why do you think some people defend it? That is by telling some of the things that are not to be protested against?"

The same subscriber asks if we can send him a sample of the word hunt letters, as received from competitors. This we cannot do, without the consent of the writers themselves.

Light Hearts and Plenty Money.

MR. EDITOR:—I have just completed my first week's work with my Plating Machine and have \$42 profit as a reward. I am charmed with the business; the work is easy and profits large. I bought my Plater from W. H. Griffith & Co., Zanesville, Ohio, for \$3, and I feel confident if people only knew how cheaply they could get a Plater and how much money they could make with it we would see many happy homes, "where penny now exists." It is surprising the amount of tableware and jewelry people want plated, and if persons now idle would send to the above address and get a circular, and go to work, they would soon have light hearts and plenty money.

MRS. J. C. NOBLE.

Special Notice.

Subscribers to the *Stamp World* and *Hubbard's Magazine* will find the date of their subscription credit to *PLAIN TALK* on the margin of the wrapper near their names. If any errors are discovered the publishers will hope to have early notice.

SILK AND SATIN FOR PATCHWORK OR FANCY WORK.

12 Pieces for patch work.....	10c
12 Skeins Embroidery Silk.....	10c
75 Pieces (no two alike).....	50c
Painted and Embroidered Pieces, 2-10-15 and.....	25c
Painted or embroidered piece free with every order for three ten cent packages.	

Mrs. N. F. PERKINS,

635 Park Avenue, New York City.

Exchange and Sale Department.

Subscribers who pay \$1.00 per year have the privilege of this department free, subject to the following rules. To those not subscribers the charge is 1 cent per word. Issue. Old subscribers who were on our books March 1, 1891, have the privilege of this department free to the close of 1891, regardless of the date of their subscription. It must be understood that we can take no responsibility concerning exchanges effected by means of this department. Notices to exchange must be accompanied by a guarantee. To avoid any misunderstanding in the matter, it would be advisable for those contemplating exchange to write for particulars to the addresses before sending the articles desired. Notices must be plainly and concisely written, following the general arrangement here below, and one side of the paper only, and as often as you please, but not more than one notice for single issue. Notices of more than 40 words not inserted. Notices of more than 100 words not inserted, but one insertion. Exchange notices of revolvers, "trashy" novels, etc., not inserted. The publishers reserve the right to decline to insert any notice if they think best.

Jacob Haas, Box 7, Houghton, Mich.—For sale, Springfield roadster bicycle extra. Price, \$25.00, cost \$75. Write me. 67

Tra Ingalls, Wallaheerah, Wash.—Stanley's own book, In Darkest Africa, in two volumes, new, cost nine dollars, will sell cheap for cash or exchange. 67

John Royer, 113 N. Plum St., Lancaster, Pa.—Cash paid for a small self-inking printing press if cheap. 67

G. U. Duer, Asst. P. M., Millersburg, Ohio.—One Dozen fine arrow heads or four fine spear heads to exchange for a U. S. half dollar dated before 1866. Send first. 67

G. B. Dyer, 100 N. 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.—For sale at a sacrifice, or for test offers in exchange, a handsome set (large collar and cuffs) of genuine beaver fur suits, overcoat, not inserted, or removed at pleasure. They are brand new and cost \$30.00. 67

W. E. Petri, Meadows, McLean Co., Ill.—Wanted a good Photo Camera, Kodak preferred, also telescope and binoculars goods. Will pay cash or give good exchange. Have two printing presses and outfits, cost \$15.00 and \$85.00 respectively. 67

Ralph Botham, Putnam, Conn.—Wanted all publishers or editors of amateur coin or stamp papers everywhere to send their publications to the newly formed club in Putnam. 67

Carl Murray, Mendocino City, Cal.—Any person not a subscriber to the "Youth's Companion," and who will subscribe through me, sending \$1.75, the price, of my good test (new) that he may pick out of my list. Send for list. 67

Chester C. Stoumen, Stillville, N. Y.—Has small oil painting, 10x12, of a landscape, and a pair of gold or silver jewelry. Silver half dime of 1802 particularly desired. 67

E. J. Phillips, 184 Sherbourne St., Toronto, Can.—A ten key table to exchange for best offer of stamps or books on boating. 67

J. C. Miller, Cold Valley, Pa.—One hundred U. S. or foreign stamps, every fifty U. S. stamps, or one hundred for every twenty-five square cent envelope stamps. One Chinese coin for every five one-half cent Canadian. Enclose four one-half cent unused stamps for answer. 67

Geo. P. Jacobson, Box 217, Calmar, Iowa.—"Wisdom," one year, "Collectors World," one year, in exchange for one hundred and fifty old used U. S. and Canada postage stamps (any kind sent me). A fifteen word advertisement inserted once for two hundred stamps. 67

Frank M. Lyon, Pierceville, Iowa.—A six photographic outfit complete. Victor triplex, 48-inch wheels, charted thirteen silver keys, music-box, two good watches, Webster's unabridged dictionary, brand new library style, type, coins, type-writer, stereograph, and many other things. 67

A. E. Marks, Woodford, Me.—For sale or exchange: proof dollar 1856, \$1.00; good 1793 cent, \$4.50; fine 1856 eagle cent, \$1.00; one cent, 1861, 1862, 1863, 90 cents; very fine trade dollars, 1873 to 1878, \$1.00 each. 67

Louis A. Hennick, Jr., Balto City College, Balto, Md.—I will send ten valuable mineral specimens to any person sending the same date before the 15th of June, 1891, for "cents." Have also a printing outfit for best stamp offer. 67

J. F. Crowley, Box 15, Thorndike, Mass.—To exchange, a clarinet, a collect coin, a printing press, for good books or will sell cheap for cash. 67

A. N. Fuller, Lawrence, Kans.—Minerals wanted. Send lists of what you have to exchange or sell. 67

R. Roy, 100 N. 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.—Ga.—Will exchange reading matter or will give 10c for pieces of wood from each State and Territory. Size, 2x2x1 in. 67

G. W. Robinson, Flag Pond, Va.—Will exchange fine Cherokee arrow heads in quantity, or fine fossils by the 100, for long spears or slate ornaments; or will give a new watch for good relics of all kinds, must be fine. 67

Mrs. Henry W. Dumas, Athens, Pa.—For exchange, back numbers of "Youth's Companion" and other papers for pieces of silk, satin, velvet, plush or worsted goods or yarn. 67

R. C. Hatch, Lisle, Ill.—I have a safety bicycle, nearly new. It cost \$45.00. Will sell for \$30.00 cash, or exchange for top buggy. Write first. All letters answered. 67

Lewis A. Braden, Jr., Jackson, W. H. Thompson, Kendallville, Ind.—Would like to buy a good camera. Hawkeye preferred, or will exchange an 1893 3rd. red ink pen entire cost \$10.00, cost \$10.00, cost \$10.00. 67

D. G. French, Orlinda, Ont.—Receives for photograph, red eraser, handy water pen and ten kinds of ink for one hundred varieties stamps or a dime dated before 1870. 67

John H. Brown, 100 N. 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.—Will exchange for a guitar, complete with strings, patent head. Send lists. 67

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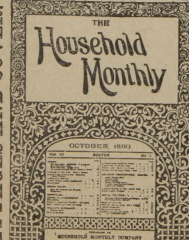
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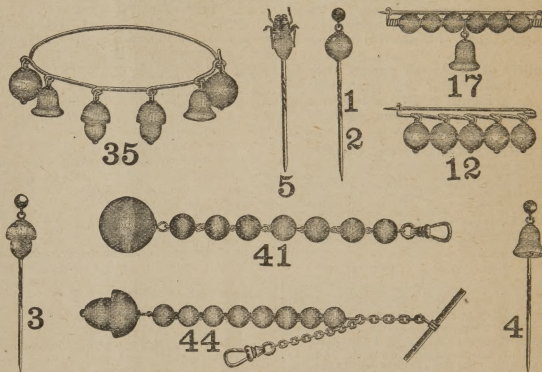
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